

Mayor Matthew A. Pacifico

Monthly Update - May 2018



Winter finally appears to be over and as such, the City has undertaken its annual street sweeping. Beginning April 2nd, the City will start sweeping the main arteries including 6th Avenue, 7th Avenue, Broad Avenue, Beale Avenue, Lloyd Street, Logan Boulevard, 17th Street, Chestnut Avenue, and Juniata Gap Road.

Residential street sweeping will take place once the main arteries are completed and throughout the summer.

Residents can help by sweeping winter sidewalk dirt and road anti-skid over the curb to the gutter line of the street for the street sweeper to pick up.

Please **DO NOT** include soil, garbage, or leaves.

For any questions, please contact the City Highway Yard at 814-949-2212.



City Council Meeting - May

City Council will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00 P.M. at City Council Chambers, 1320 Washington Ave.

To view the full calendar of City Council meetings for 2018, please visit the City's website:

[2018 City Council Meetings](#)

State of the City Address

On April 11, Mayor Pacifico delivered the 2017 State of the City to councilmembers, City officials, business and community leaders, and residents. The yearly address took place at City Council Chambers and highlighted the accomplishments of each City department over the previous year.

Highlights include the City's exit from Act 47; upcoming development projects in the community; the City's strategies to address blighted properties; and upcoming public safety measures.

To read the full address, please click here:

State of the City 2017

Altoona's Sesquicentennial Celebration

This year marks the Sesquicentennial of the Charter for the City of Altoona. 150 years ago, the original charter for the City of Altoona was signed. In 1868, the area was a few farms on the edge of the first frontier, which grew into the industrial beehive that now boasts some of the most innovative and successful businesses in Pennsylvania today.

Events will take place through May to December 2018 to mark this momentous occasion. To view the full schedule of events, please click the link below:

City of Altoona's Sesquicentennial Celebration

Flooding & You: Learn How to Keep You & Your Property Safe

After a heavy rain, the City usually gets calls from residents regarding street and residential flooding. As such, the newsletter will now feature a section devoted to the City's participation a national flood insurance program, and will provide background information, facts and figures, safety tips, and how the City is working to help protect residents and their property against flooding.

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood impact resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS:

1. Reduce flood damage to insurable property;
2. Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and
3. Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

The City of Altoona was recognized as a CRS community in October 2012, with a rating of 8. As a result, flood insurance is reduced 10% for residents in the special flood hazard area. In October 2017, we had our 5 year review and maintained our rating. We are always striving to reduce our rating even more. A community not participating in the CRS program has a 10 rating. Insurance is reduced 5% with each number reduction.

Gables Building Renovation

The prominent Gables Building is hoping to once again be a focal point of Downtown Altoona. The partnership who owns the building has applied for a \$3 million grant through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program from the Commonwealth to restore the exterior of the building. Should it be successful, the grant would enable the removal of brick to bring forth the original facade and enable more light to shine into the building.

The original facade of the building was covered in brick in the 1970s to provide a more modern appearance and style to the building. However, in recent years, there has been a move throughout the country to restore buildings to their former glory.

If successful, the grant will enable the existing brick to be removed and for the installation of new, energy efficient windows that will not only allow more light to enter the building, but will provide for much less upkeep. While the \$3 million grant will not cover the full cost of the project, the Gables partnership has pledged to match the grant money needed for remodeling.

The partnership will hear in the coming months whether they were successful in securing the requested grant.

Altoona in Bloom Street Fair



The Downtown Altoona Business Community will once again be hosting the 2nd Annual Downtown Altoona Street Fair in Downtown Altoona Friday, May 4th from 5-9 PM and Saturday, May 5th from 12-9 PM.

The event will have food vendors, retail shopping, crafts, children's activities, music and more. Rides will be set up at the Railroaders Museum, Vendors will be stationed at the 13th Street Crossover, and Heritage Plaza will be center-stage for live music and food vendors.

More information will become available as the event nears. For questions or more information, please contact the DABC via PM on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownABC/>.

Hamilton Park Ribbon Cutting

Central Blair Recreation Center (CBRC) will be hosting an official ribbon cutting for Hamilton Park (301 E. Cherry Avenue, Altoona) on May 23rd.

The park is currently open to visitors and includes a brand new rope climber, new pickleball courts, and a refurbished ball field.

Improvements to the park were possible through a cooperative effort

between the CBRC and the Booker T. Washington Revitalized Corporation.

More information for the ribbon cutting will be made available in the coming weeks. Please visit CBRC's official Facebook page for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/central.recreation/>.

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